Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A synthetic resin container having excellent gas barrier property and heat resistance, wherein said container comprises a matrix that is blended with a gas barrier material, and wherein said container is produced by a process including bi-axial stretch blow molding steps performed at least twice, with a heat treatment step therebetween.

2. (Original) A synthetic resin container according to claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises polyethylene terephthalate resin, and said gas barrier material comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of a methaxylylene group-containing polyamide resin, an amorphous polyester resin and an ethylene naphthalate-ethylene terephthalate copolymer resin.

3. (Original) A multi-layered synthetic resin container having excellent gas barrier property and heat resistance, wherein said container comprises a base layer having a matrix that is blended with a gas barrier material, and a protection layer having an enriched gas barrier property, and wherein said container is produced by a process including bi-axial stretch blow molding steps performed at least twice, with a heat treatment step therebetween.

4. (Original) A synthetic resin container according to claim 3, wherein said matrix comprises polyethylene terephthalate resin, and said gas barrier material comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of a methaxylylene group-containing polyamide resin, an amorphous polyester resin and an ethylene naphthalate-ethylene terephthalate copolymer resin.

5. (Original) A synthetic resin container according to claim 3, wherein said protection layer comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of a methaxylylene group-containing polyamide resin, an amorphous polyester resin, an ethylene

naphthalate-ethylene terephthalate copolymer resin and an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin.

6. (Original) A method for producing a synthetic resin container having excellent gas barrier property and heat resistance, by bi-axial stretch blow molding steps performed at least twice, with a heat treatment step therebetween, wherein said blow molding steps are performed with a preform consisting of a synthetic resin of which a matrix is blended with a gas barrier material.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said preform comprises a multi-layered structural body comprising a base layer having a matrix that is blended with a gas barrier material, and a protection layer having an enriched gas barrier property.

8. (New) A method for producing a synthetic resin container having excellent gas barrier property and heat resistance, comprising the steps of:

subjecting a preform to a primary hi-axial stretch blow molding to form a primary intermediate body of the container;

subjecting the primary intermediate body to a heat treatment to form a secondary intermediate body of the container; and

subjecting the secondary intermediate body to a secondary bi-axial stretch blow molding to form a finished product,

wherein the preform comprises a synthetic resin having a matrix that is blended with a gas barrier material, and

the primary intermediate body of the container is 1.2 - 2.5 times larger in capacity than the finished product, and

the secondary intermediate body of the container is 0.60 to 0.95 times larger in capacity than the finished product.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the matrix comprises polyethylene terephthalate resin, and the gas barrier material comprises at least one material selected from a group consisting of a methaxylylene group-containing polyamide resin, an amorphous polyester resin and an ethylene naphthalate-ethylene terephthalate copolymer resin.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the preform comprises a multi-layered structural body comprising a base layer comprising the matrix, and a protection layer having an enriched gas barrier property.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said protection layer (b_2) comprises at least one material selected from a group consisting of a methaxylylene group-containing polyamide resin, an amorphous polyester resin, an ethylene naphthalate-ethylene terephthalate copolymer resin and an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin.

12. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the gas barrier material is blended in the matrix of the synthetic resin with a blend ratio of 0.5-10 % by mass.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said blend ratio of the gas barrier material is less than 5 % by mass.